

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-15 and 17-23 are pending in the present application.

In the Office Action of June 10, 2005, which constitutes a FINAL REJECTION, the Examiner rejected Claims 1,7, 9-11, 17 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as allegedly being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,828,883 issued to Hall. The Examiner further rejected Claims 8 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Hall in view of US Patent No. 6,330,659 issued to Poff et al.

The Examiner did object to Claims 2-5 and 12-15 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

The Examiner further indicated that Claim 23 was allowable.

In response, applicants hereby cancel Claim 1 and incorporates the subject matter thereof in Claim 2, now re-cast in independent form. Likewise, applicants hereby cancel Claim 11 and incorporates the subject matter thereof in Claim 12, now re-cast in independent form.


Respectfully, amended Claims 2 and 12 now present patentable subject matter and the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow these claims proceed to issuance. In light of the cancellation of Claims 1 and 11, respective Claims 7 and 17 are being amended to depend upon respective amended Claims 2 and 12.

Furthermore, in light of the allowability of Claims 2 and 12, dependent Claims 8 and 18 are deemed allowable and the rejection of these claims is respectfully traversed.

Claim 21 is further being amended to set forth the limitations as added in corresponding Claim 2 and it is respectfully submitted that Claim 21 now recites patentable subject matter. Likewise, Claim 22 is further being amended to set forth the limitations as added in corresponding Claim 12 and it is respectfully submitted that Claim 22 now recites patentable subject matter.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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